

Dear Veterans, Military Families and Supporters,

Please find a number of resources below to benefit veterans and military families. They are not endorsed by my office, just a compilation of programs and services that come across my desk. Please feel free to share and vet according to your needs. If you have anything you would like me to share, please forward it. Thank you.

Lisa Terry

The Department of Natural Resources - The Department of Natural Resources has several programs and special rates for military veterans, active duty service members, and prisoners of war. Check out programs offered through your state parks to include recreational programs, hunting, fishing and more.

Greenwell Foundation Veterans Program - offers veterans opportunities to participate in its inclusive and accessible programs including Horseback Riding, River Riders Kayaking, Vets Helping Vets, and Operation Warrior Refuge. All of these activities have therapeutic value for our nation's recovering servicemen and women.

Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (CRAB) - offers sailing opportunities for physically and/or developmentally-challenged individuals. They offer specially arranged sailing and racing events for Wounded Warriors and their families. In cooperation with the Paralyzed Veterans of America, CRAB has offered two-day sailing clinics specifically for learning to sail and race.

They provide weekday and weekend sails for recovering warriors and their family and friends and schedule sails for individual family members/friends and group sails for multiple people. They operate out of Sandy Point State Park.

Veteran Resource Podcast - Veteran Resource Podcast was created to introduce veterans to Veteran Service Organizations. There are literally thousands of VSO's out there, each with a different mission. The one thing that they have in common is that they want to help veterans in their own way. Some might help financially, some might help emotionally, some might help with homelessness, and others might help by providing the opportunity for veterans to serve their community and help others in need. Each week Jeremy will interview a different VSO to find out what their mission is, what projects they have going on, what challenges they face, and the type of veteran that is in their wheelhouse. With thousands of VSO's there has to be something out there for every veteran. Podcast Episodes

Ft. Meade Financial Focus – January 2017 – Lots of great resources and tips

VetJobs Veteran Eagle Newsletter, Jan 2017 – job listings, resources, military information and more

Maryland Dept. of Veteran Affairs Newsletter, 23 Dec 2016 – programs, legislation, updates and more for active duty and veterans. Please sign up for weekly information and job openings.

Corvias Foundation Scholarships for military spouses and children of active duty

VFW Unmet Needs Grants - **Unmet Needs is there to help America's military families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The program provides financial aid of up to \$5,000 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant -not a loan- so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, we pay the creditor directly.**

Pentagon to Open Online Exchange Shopping to Vets in 2017

Check out USO programs and events in your area - The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation.

25th Anniversary The Liberation of Kuwait: Honoring the Veterans of Desert Storm book and DVD documentary.- I have copies in my office for any veteran who might one. Free 410-313-0821

Save Books and Give Books! - Save your books and deposit them into the book bins on Fort Meade. The revenue generated by collected books will be used by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation to support the Fort Meade Community. Book bin locations can be found at the PX, Commissary, Potomac Place Community Center and DISA! Give Books Today!

Fort Meade Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program 2017 schedule – open to transitioning military, military spouses and veterans

Fort Meade Army Community Services and Fleet and Family Support Employment Readiness Schedule – offers classes, workshops and events to DoD ID cardholders; Active Duty, Retirees, Family members, DoD civilians, and Fort Meade contractors. All classes are free!

Howard County 50+ Connection Newsletter – Jan 2017

Job Fairs

US Chamber Foundation/Hiring Our Heroes

Friday, January 6th

10 AM – 1 PM

W. E. Washington Convention Ctr

801 Mt Vernon Place, NW Washington, DC 20001

Military/Veterans/Spouses

Veterans Jobs & Resource Fair “Helping 500 Veterans Secure Jobs”

January 9, 2016, 10am-2pm

Dave and Buster's, 1851 Ritchie Station Court Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Space is limited

Refreshments Served

You MUST be a Veteran Service Organization to attend

Tech Expo

Tuesday, January 10th, 10 AM – 3 PM

Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner

1700 Tysons Blvd

McLean, VA 22102

CI of Full Poly

Veteran Recruiting VIRTUAL Career Fair

Wednesday, January 11th, 1- 3 PM EST

Accenture Technical Training Program

Mil/Vets/Spouses

Tech Expo

Wednesday, January 11th, 10 AM – 3 PM

BWI Marriott

1743 West Nursery Road

Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

CI or Full Poly

Coast to Coast Job Fairs

January 17, 11am-2pm

Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel

903 Dulaney Valley Rd

Towson, MD 21204

General

United Career Fairs

Tuesday, January 24th, 6 PM

Sheraton Columbia Town Center

10207 Wincopin Circle

Columbia, MD 21044

Sales

JobZone Job Fairs 2017

MD, VA and DC

Veterans encouraged to attend

Other Job Fairs, Jan 2017

Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families General Meeting

Thursday, January 5 at 7pm

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21044

Open to the public

Howard County Veterans Resource Fair – SAVE THE DATE!

Tues, April 4th from 5-8pm

Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City, MD

If you nonprofit, government agency or veteran organization is interested in tabling the event, please call 410-313-0821 or lbterry@howardcountymd.gov for more information.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Howard County is pleased to announce our next **Family to Family** 12 week course scheduled for the following time period:

When: Thursday, January 12, 2017 - Thursday, March 30, 2017

Time: 7:00pm-9:30pm

Where: Owen Brown Interfaith Center

If interested in registering for this life-changing course, please contact us at info.namihc@gmail.com or call the office at [410-772-9300](tel:410-772-9300).

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program is a 12-week course for families and friends of adults living with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, anxiety disorders, and borderline personality disorder. Course participants gain vital information, resources, insight, and understanding of their loved one that many describe as life-changing.

The program is taught by trained NAMI family members who have relatives or other loved ones who have a mental illness.

How to register for the **Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE)** – job opportunities for jobseekers, candidates for employers, training and educational opportunities and more

AARP Invites Veterans to Legislative Forum in Annapolis

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

8:00 am to 1:30 pm

Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis

Register for transportation

Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Employer Training Day – Fairfax

January 25, 2017, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

ICF International

9300 Lee Hwy

Fairfax, VA 22031

FREE

The Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program will host a free employer training day for companies interested in learning why and how to hire Veterans. This curriculum is a general survey curriculum designed for a broad range of company sizes and industries.

This event will feature all of the training needed in order to become a V3 certified company!

The opportunity to complete all of this training at once is rare and we hope that you will take full advantage!

This event will:

- Educate employers on the Value of hiring Veterans
- Train employers on leading best practices in recruiting, hiring, and retaining Veterans
- Connect employers with valuable resources to find qualified Veteran talent
- Inform employers on how their company may qualify for up to \$10,000 in V3 Grants
- Has been approved for 2.5 Credit Hours for HRCI and SHRM Certifications

Registration: <http://bit.ly/0125fairfaxva>

Howard County Office of Children and Families to hold Preschool/Child Care Information Fair

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Howard County's Department of Community Resources and Services will host its annual Preschool/Child Care Information Fair, "Children On Board," on **Sunday, Jan. 29 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville. Admission is free; however, attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item or unopened pack of diapers to donate to the Howard County Food/Diaper Bank.

Coordinated by the Department's Office of Children and Families, "Children On Board" will provide parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel with "one stop shopping" for information on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as well as the opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors.

Representatives from community service organizations that offer programs and services to Howard County's young children will also be on hand to provide information to interested parents. Attendees will also have the opportunity to attend free informational sessions on "How to Choose an Early Childhood Program" offered each hour by the Parents As Teacher's Program.

The new *2017 Parent's Guide to Howard County* will be distributed at the event free of charge. For more information about the Fair, contact the Office of Children and Families at either 410-313-1940 (voice/relay) or email children@howardcountymd.gov.

VA News

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing Veterans with quality, safe and compassionate health care in a timely manner. To that end, we are amending provider regulations to permit full practice authority to three roles of VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, regardless of State restrictions that limit such full practice authority, except for applicable State restrictions on the authority to prescribe and administer controlled substances, when such APRNs are acting within the scope of their VA employment.

“Advanced practice registered nurses are valuable members of VA’s health care system,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Amending this regulation increases our capacity to provide timely, efficient, effective and safe primary care, aids VA in making the most efficient use of APRN staff capabilities, and provides a degree of much needed experience to alleviate the current access challenges that are affecting VA.”

The proposed rule stated that VA would grant full practice authority to the four APRN roles. Though VA does have some localized issues, we do not have immediate and broad access challenges in the area of anesthesia care across the full VA health care system that require full practice authority for all Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Therefore, VA will not finalize the provision including CRNAs in the final rule as one of the APRN roles that may be granted full practice authority at this time. However, VA CRNAs that are granted full practice authority by their state license will continue to practice in VA in accordance with their state license and subject to credentialing and privileging by their VA medical facility’s medical executive committee. VA will not restrict or eliminate these CRNAs’ full practice authority.

VA will request comment on the question of whether there are current anesthesia care access issues for particular states or VA facilities and whether permitting CRNAs to practice to the full extent of their advanced authority would resolve these issues.

“CRNAs provide an invaluable service to our Veterans,” Under Secretary for Health Shulkin continued. “Though CRNAs will not be included in VA’s full practice authority under this final rule, we are requesting comments on whether there are access issues or other unconsidered circumstances that might warrant their inclusion in a future rulemaking. In the meantime, we owe it to Veterans to increase access to care in areas where we know we have immediate and broad access challenges.”

If VA learns of access problems in the area of anesthesia care in specific facilities or more generally that would benefit from advanced practice authority, now or in the future, or if other relevant circumstances change, we will consider a follow-up rulemaking to address granting full practice authority to CRNAs.

The final rule can be found on the Federal Register website.

- Key Facts:

- As an integrated Federal health care system with the responsibility to provide comprehensive care under 38 U.S.C. 7301, it is essential that VHA wisely manage its resources and fully utilize the skills of its health care providers to the full extent of their education, training, and certification. By permitting some APRNs throughout the VHA system with a way to achieve full practice authority in order to provide advanced nursing services to the full extent of their professional competence, VHA furthers its statutory mandate to provide quality health care to our nation's Veterans.
- The services provided by an APRN under full practice authority in VA are consistent with the nursing profession's standards of practice for such roles. This rulemaking increases Veterans' access to VA health care by expanding the pool of qualified health care professionals who are authorized to provide primary health care and other related health care services to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, without the clinical supervision of physicians, and it permits VA to use its health care resources more effectively and in a manner that is consistent with the role of APRNs in the non-VA health care sector, while maintaining the patient-centered, safe, high-quality health care that Veterans receive from VA.
- In this rulemaking, VA is exercising Federal preemption of State nursing licensure laws to the extent such State laws conflict with the full practice authority granted to VA APRNs while acting within the scope of their VA employment. Preemption is the minimum necessary action for VA to allow APRNs full practice authority.
- A significant number of states have approved full practice authority for NPs and CRNAs, with many VA Medical Centers successfully utilizing APRNs to the full extent of their education and training.
- Standardization of APRN full practice authority, without regard for individual State practice regulations, helps to ensure a consistent delivery of health care across VHA by decreasing the variability in APRN practice that currently exists as a result of disparate State practice regulations.
- Standardization of APRN full practice authority also aids VA in making the most efficient use of VHA APRN staff capabilities, which increases VA's capacity to provide timely, efficient, and effective primary care services, as well as other services. This increases Veteran access to needed VA health care, particularly in medically-underserved areas and decreases the amount of time Veterans spend waiting for patient appointments.
- In addition, standardizing APRN practice authority enables Veterans, their families, and caregivers to understand more readily the health care services that VA APRNs are authorized to provide.
- This preemptive rule increases access to care and reduces the wait times for VA appointments utilizing the current workforce already in place.
- As of July 2016, VA has approximately 93,500 nurses (RNs, LPNs, NAs); included in that number is approximately 5,769 APRNs.

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Decrease in Veteran Co-pay

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulation on copayments for Veterans'

outpatient medications for non-service connected conditions. VA currently charges non-exempt Veterans either \$8 or \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of outpatient medication, and under current regulations, a calculation based on the medication of the Medical Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) would be used to determine the copayment amount in future years.

“Switching to a tiered system continues to keep outpatient medication costs low for Veterans,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Reducing their out-of-pocket costs encourages greater adherence to prescribed outpatient medications and reduces the risk of fragmented care that results when multiple pharmacies are used; another way that VA is providing better service to Veterans.”

This new regulation eliminates the formula used to calculate future rate increases and establishes three classes of outpatient medications identified as Tier 1, Preferred Generics; Tier 2, Non-Preferred Generics including over-the-counter medications; and Tier 3, Brand Name. Copayment amounts for each tier would be fixed and vary depending upon the class of outpatient medication in the tier.

These copayment amounts will be effective February 27, 2017:

\$5 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 1 outpatient medication

\$8 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 2 outpatient medication

\$11 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 3 outpatient medication

These changes apply to Veterans without a service-connected condition, or Veterans with a disability rated less than 50 percent who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition, and whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law. Medication copayments do not apply to former Prisoners of War, catastrophically disabled Veterans, or those covered by other exceptions as set by law.

Copayments stop each calendar year for Veterans in Priority Groups 2-8 once a \$700 cap is reached.

More information on the new tiered medication copayment can be found [here](#).

Future Resiliency and Education Center

There are 160,000 people at Fort George G. Meade who are eligible to use the programs and services that will be available through the future Resiliency and Education Center. It's the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation's mission to make that happen. FMA has embarked on our \$3.6 million Ready, Strong and Connected campaign to transform the historic Kuhn Hall at Fort Meade into a new Resiliency and Education Center. This new facility will become a central place for service personnel, their families and the DoD Community to find resources, services and programs. We want to help strengthen the Fort Meade Community through resiliency, education and wellness.

Our national defense rests on the shoulders of our DoD community. They must have physical, emotional and psychological endurance. The new Resiliency and Education Center will help provide the community resources they need to succeed.

During this holiday season, we hope you will help the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation get closer to reaching its goal of giving back to the DoD Community!

[Donate Today](#)

For more information, please look at our campaign brochure [online](#).

Visit the FMA Foundation [website](#) to learn more about our other initiatives.

Howard County introduces bill to expand livable homes tax credit, helping residents ‘age in place’

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – County Executive Allan H. Kittleman will pre-file legislation tomorrow that would expand a tax credit for residents adapting their homes to allow them to “age in place.” The legislation is in response to recommendations from the county’s Commission on Aging.

Legislation filed with the County Council would amend the Livable Homes Tax Credit to include a greater variety of projects that make it easier for seniors and individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes, such as accessible pathways between parking and residences, adding railings to hallways, installing slip-resistant flooring and improving stair design. The tax credit allowed would be increased from 50 percent of eligible costs to the full amount of eligible costs, or a total of \$2,500 per project, whichever is less.

“Seniors tell us they want to stay in their homes and age in place, if possible. If they are on fixed incomes, they may not be able to afford necessary improvements or renovations to make that possible,” said Kittleman. “We are working with our Commission on Aging and Office on Aging and Independence to create reasonable tax credits to help seniors and people with disabilities get these projects done, so they can more easily live in the homes and communities they love.”

Sharonlee Vogel, Chair of the county’s Commission on Aging, said she and other Commission members welcome the proposed changes. “The Commission on Aging is pleased with these enhancements, especially increasing the cap to the full amount of eligible costs,” she said. “We look forward to working with the County Executive and county government to make Howard County the best place to age in the community.”

The Livable Homes Tax Credit was enacted in 2012 to provide a tax credit for the cost of installation of accessibility features in existing owner-occupied residences in Howard County. There is an annual cap on total credits issued of \$100,000, which will remain unchanged.

Improving services and initiatives for the county’s senior population has been a priority for Kittleman since taking office two years ago. He elevated the county’s Office on Aging and Independence administrator to a cabinet-level position and renamed senior centers to 50+ Centers to accommodate growing services for all seniors, including aging Baby Boomers.

The county’s senior population continues to grow rapidly. In 2010, 10 percent of residents were 65 or older. By 2025, this will increase to 18 percent and by 2035, to nearly 22 percent.

"We want residents to stay in the County where they built their lives, raised their families and made friends and connections," Kittleman said. "We're going to work harder to get the word out about what is available and how to make use of it. We hear from our Office on Aging and Independence that many seniors don't take advantage of available tax credits because they don't know about them or how to apply."

In October, Kittleman filed legislation expanding eligibility for the Senior Tax Credit and creating the Aging-in-Place Tax Credit, which were passed by the County Council on December 5.

The eligibility age for the Senior Tax Credit was reduced from 70 to 65, expanding the potential number of property owners who qualify from 26,000 to more than 40,000.

Property owners must use the property as their primary residence, have a combined gross income not exceeding 500 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for a household of two (about \$80,000 for Fiscal Year 2017) and have a net worth not to exceed \$500,000.

The Aging-in-Place Tax Credit provides a 20 percent tax credit on up to \$500,000 of assessed property value for a period of up to five years. Although the Maryland General Assembly passed state-wide enabling legislation for this tax credit during the 2016 legislative session, local legislation was needed to make it available in Howard County.

The County Council is scheduled to vote on the expanded Livable Homes Tax Credit bill on Feb. 6, 2017.

Free informational workshop scheduled for Jan. 17th and 18th

Howard County Housing Department accepts Moderate Income Housing Unit applications

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is now accepting applications for its Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program during its first open enrollment period for 2017. Applications for the MIHU homeownership program will be accepted from Jan. 3 through Jan. 31.

DHCD will hold two free MIHU workshops to explain the program's eligibility requirements and application process for prospective homebuyers and renters. The MIHU Renters Workshop will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 17 and the MIHU Homebuyers Workshop will take place on Wednesday Jan. 18. These workshops are open to the public and will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. Guidewell Financial Solutions will be on hand to present information regarding the importance of credit scores in the home buying and rental processes. For more information or to register for a workshop, contact DHCD's Housing Opportunities Programs Division at 410-313-6343.

To purchase an MIHU home, individuals must apply to DHCD during an open enrollment period to be placed in the database. To qualify, an applicant's household income may not exceed 80% of Howard County's median income which, as of Jan. 1, 2017, is \$110,893 for a four-person household. Household income limits are based on family size. Applicants must meet minimum credit score requirements and their household income must be sufficient to qualify for a home mortgage based on industry standards. Sale prices for MIHUs can range from \$228,000 for a

condominium to \$322,000 for a townhouse. Actual sale prices vary depending on the size and amenities of the unit.

Homeownership opportunities are currently offered at below-market sales prices in several communities, including: Dorset Gardens at Blue Stream, Elkridge Crossing and Morris Place in Elkridge and Oxford Square in Hanover. With competitive low interest rates, estimated mortgage payments for homes priced at \$228,000 would start at approximately \$1,600, and require an annual household income of approximately \$54,000 to qualify. Most of the townhomes feature three finished levels with 1,600 to 2,100 square feet of living space, three or four-bedrooms, as many as three full and two half baths, one and two-car garages, and much more.

In addition to the MIHU Renters and Homebuyers Workshops, DHCD will also offer a free First-Time Homebuyer's Workshop on Monday, Jan 23 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. Held monthly, this workshop focuses on the critical areas of home buying, from homeownership readiness and budgeting and credit usage, to financing a home. Registration is required for this workshop. To register, interested persons should call 410-313-6328 or email homebuyerclass@howardcountymd.gov.

To rent an MIHU unit, a qualified applicant's household income may not exceed 60% of the Howard County median income. MIHUs are rented on a first-come, first-served basis, with rents ranging from \$1,068 to \$1,620. MIHUs are interspersed throughout each community and residents enjoy all the amenities of community life. Alta at Regency Crest, Ashbury Courts, Belmont Station, Miller's Grant, Mission Place, Orchard Meadows, Orchard Park, Penniman Park and Woodfield Oxford Square currently offer MIHU apartments. The minimum annual household income needed to qualify for a 1-bedroom apartment through the MIHU program is approximately \$36,000. Prospective renters may apply directly to a participating rental community at any time during the year. Community addresses and phone numbers can be found online at www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Housing/MIHU-Rental-Opportunities.

Open enrollment periods for the MIHU purchase program are held quarterly. Those interested in enrolling should call DHCD's Housing Opportunities Programs Division at 410-313-6343, or visit the MIHU website at www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Housing/Home-Ownership-Opportunities/Moderate-Incoming-Housing-Unit-Program-MIHU.

Employment Opportunities:

To receive local job openings, contact **MAXOutreach**, a free job distribution service of MAXIMUS, 7130 Minstrel Drive, Columbia MD 21045 at OutreachCoordinator@maximus.com or call 1-800-274-8582 ext 185.

To receive job openings from AmVets, please contact Ciara Robinson **AMVETS Career Center** Manager National Programs Associate crobenson@amvets.org Desk: 301.683.4029 www.amvets.org/careercenter

Join the [Howard County Chamber of Commerce/GovConnects](#) mailing list to receive information on business and defense contract opportunities

Lisa B. Terry, Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families

Administrator, Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families

Howard County Government

Department of Community Resources and Services

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500

Columbia, MD 21046

Office: 410-313-6400

Direct : 410-313-0821

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans>

The Department of Community Resources and Services provides vital human services through its offices of ADA Coordination, Aging and Independence, Children and Families, Community Partnerships, Consumer Protection, Local ***Children's Board, and Veterans and Military Families.***

The Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families (OVMF) provides guidance, information and access to the more than 20,000 veterans who live in Howard County, as well as their dependents and survivors, and military families. The OVMF also promotes activities for veterans of all ages and collaborates with other service providers to address more complex issues.

Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/vetcomm>

Department of Community Resources and Services Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HoCoCommunity/>

Commission on Veterans and Military Families Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HocoMilitary/>

Reserved Veteran Parking Initiative

Honor veterans living and working in Howard County by installing a Reserved Veteran Parking sign at your place of business or in honor of a loved one.

http://www.howardchamber.com/chamber_information/veteran_parking_sign_initiative.aspx